

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [0049] as indicated below:

[0049] The following embodiments generally refer to FIGS. 4 through 15. In one embodiment, the orientation catheter once in place in the ascending aorta may be removed over a guide wire and the device Housing Catheter 18 advanced over the wire until its distal end is in the ascending aorta. The device Housing Catheter 18, like the orientation catheter 11, is made of material flexible and torqueable, preferably of a polymeric material but any other biocompatible material may be used. The device Housing Catheter 18 contains a central lumen through which the valve immobilization catheter (VIC) 19 can be advanced, and has in its wall holes 20, 21 (herein referred to as "portals") that, once the Housing Catheter 18 is in place in the ascending aorta with the assistance of the orientation catheter, are specifically aligned with the locations of the anterior 3 and posterior 4 leaflets to allow for the deployment of leaflet immobilization supports (LISs) 22, 23 incorporated into the VIC 19 that unfold and project out of the apparatus to immobilize the individual leaflets. The Housing Catheter 18 also contains holes within its walls for the extension of fixation devices 24 and 25 from the VIC 19. **A distal end D of the housing catheter 18 can include an anchor zone AZ, as discussed below.** The VIC 19 is a catheter with a central lumen for a guide wire, is made of material flexible and torqueable, and has a semi-rigid portion that contains the leaflet immobilization apparatus, which consists of the leaflet immobilization supports 22, 23, the spring hinge 26, and the fixation devices 24, 25. In an alternative embodiment, the fixation devices 24, 25 may be incorporated into another element of the catheter system such as the Housing Catheter 18, or in a separate portion of the VIC 19 at a distance from the other parts of the leaflet immobilization apparatus. In an alternative embodiment, the device Housing Catheter 18 and VIC 19 may be incorporated into a single catheter with a movable core and may contain a central lumen for a guide wire.

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Please amend paragraph [0072] as indicated below:

[0072] As discussed previously herein, the present invention also provides a variety of catheters, for performing the procedures disclosed herein. In accordance with one aspect of the present invention, there is provided a catheter for accessing the heart. The catheter comprises an elongate flexible body, having a proximal end and a distal end. The distal end includes an anchor zone AZ (e.g., as in Figures 4-12). At least one tissue manipulator is carried by the flexible body, proximally of the anchor zone AZ.